



Pedro Nava

Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.assembly.ca.gov/nava

JUNE 2008

Assembly Bill 1960 "Serial Spiller" Legislation Moves Forward with Governor's Support

243,000 gallons spilled in Santa Barbara since December 2007



Inland oil spills like the one seen above in Santa Barbara County would be prevented with AB 1960. Photo courtesy of SB County Fire Dept.

SACRAMENTO – Governor Schwarzenegger met with Assemblymember Pedro Nava on June 11th to announce his "enthusiastic" support for Nava's Assembly Bill 1960. The measure will ensure polluters pay and enforce higher oil field management standards.

"I am honored that Governor Schwarzenegger is joining forces with me and statewide environmental organizations to better protect our state from pollution," said Nava. "This is an important victory for the environment, all Californians and residents of Santa Barbara County. I appreciate his support."

AB 1960 will provide increased authority to the California Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to ensure that all California-based oil companies meet stricter operating standards and that oil company operators are accountable for abandoned wells and oil spills. The bill also provides that spill clean-up costs will be covered.

Continued on page 2, see "AB 1960"

Assemblymember Nava Tackles College Student Issues

Holds Sacramento Hearing on Student Loan Crisis and Santa Barbara Press Conference with UCSB Students

SACRAMENTO/SANTA BARBARA - In Sacramento on June 6th, Chairman Nava convened the joint informational hearing of the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee, and the Assembly Higher Education Committee to discuss the student loan crisis and its impact on California's college students. According to one of the witnesses, it was the first time a state had taken such action.

Legislators heard from UCSB student Amanda Burlingame, who related her experiences with student loans and her debt burden upon graduation, along with other UC and CSU students. Additional witnesses included representatives from the California Student Aid Commission, Legislative Analyst's Office, UC Office of the President, California State University, CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, EdFund, Association of Independent CA Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, US PIRG, The Project on Student Debt, and Santa Barbara Business College.

Continued on page 2, see "Students"



UCSB Student Amanda Burlingame testifies at a Joint Committee Briefing on the current student loan crisis.

Continued from page 1, "AB 1960"

According to state authorities there are nearly three times as many inland spills as there are marine spills. Many of these spills are the result of poor maintenance and old equipment. Without legislative action this environmental threat will only become worse. Rising oil prices encourage more oil production in California that places increased pressure on the state's aging oil infrastructure.

The legislation was inspired by Santa Barbara's Greka Energy. Greka Energy has spilled about 550,000 gallons of contaminated material during the last eight years and 243,000 gallons since December 2007. In addition, Greka has received nearly 500 local, state and federal violations and more than \$2.5 million in fines and penalties.

Continued from page 1, "Students"

"We learned that over 100 lenders have decided to abandon the California Student Aid loan program. I say to California students: if the banks won't invest in you, don't invest with them." Nava is calling on California student associations to advise their members to reject credit card applications from lenders who have turned their back on California students.

UCSB STUDENT RALLY

With higher student fees and growing impediments to financial aid, California's college and university students are getting squeezed while they pursue their educational goals. Assemblymember Nava gathered with students at the University of California, Santa Barbara to discuss the Governor's proposed budget cuts that would affect academic preparation programs and student services.

"We must support access to higher education for all students," said Nava. "The state budget should not be balanced on the backs of students who are California's future. California must have an educated workforce in order to keep us strong. It is imperative that we speak out in support of our state's young people."

Rachael Ross Steidl, Founder of ParentClick, honored by Assemblymember Nava as 35th District Business of the Year

SACRAMENTO – On Wednesday, May 28th, 2008, Assemblymember Pedro Nava honored the 35th Assembly District Business of the Year, ParentClick and its founder, Goleta resident Rachael Ross Steidl, for her success and contributions to the business community at a ceremony in Sacramento sponsored by the California Small Business Association.

"ParentClick and its founder Rachael Ross Steidl is an inspiring entrepreneur who used her own experiences as a new mother to provide much needed help to families with children," said Nava. "While she started out locally, her work has helped families across the country. I am honored to recognize her and ParentClick."

Ms. Steidl, the mother of 3 girls, recognized how parents in the community would benefit from having one easy, central location with information about local resources and activities for families. She founded ParentClick.com in 2002 as SBParent.com in Santa Barbara, California. ParentClick has grown to 9 states and 20 cities around the country.

The web site receives more than 1 million hits monthly and has 1,300 resources for parents.

Rachel Ross Steidl currently serves as the Board President of the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, is on the Women's Fund Committee, Youth Making Change Committee, and a former Katherine Harvey Fellow with the Santa Barbara Foundation. She was honored by the Junior League of Santa Barbara as the 2008 Woman of the Year.



Business of the Year owner Rachael Ross Steidl at the Sacramento small business luncheon.

Assemblymember Nava Joins Community in the “Blessing of the Ocean” Ceremony Commemorates the Defeat of BHP Billiton’s LNG Terminal



Julie Tumamait-Stenslie gives a traditional Chumash blessing of the ocean as supporters gather to commemorate the defeat of a proposed LNG terminal.

VENTURA – On a sunny and breezy Sunday afternoon with clear skies overhead at a Ventura beach, Assemblymember Pedro Nava joined other community members to commemorate the one year anniversary of the defeat of the proposed Cabrillo Port LNG terminal by Australian company BHP Billiton. It was an unlikely defeat, and one Assemblymember Nava credits the community’s impassioned fight against the world’s largest mining company for its success.

“It was inspiring to see children, families, seniors, and people from all walks of life come together and stand up for the community’s health, safety, and well being,” said Nava. “Being here a year later, we appreciate the clear skies, beautiful ocean, and the fresh breeze. There is no floating factory in the horizon. It was a great accomplishment.”

The “floating factory” was a 3 football fields long and three story tall proposed degasification terminal just 14 miles off the coast of Ventura County that would have generated over 200 tons of smog producing pollutants over the Ventura and Los Angeles air basins.

The ceremony featured Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, who sang in her native Chumash, Yawa’hawi’o shima or “Welcome Water Friend” around a wooden staff topped with feathers. It also featured prayers by a local Catholic deacon, a Buddhist priest, and a Jewish Rabbi.

Several community groups present were actively involved in the defeat of the project, including CAUSE, No LNG Community Alliance, No Way on Ocean Way, Pacific Environment, the RACE Coalition, Saviers Road Design Team, and Stewards of the Earth. Also present was Susan Jordan, director of the California Coastal Protection Network, who played an instrumental role in defeating the project.

Making a Difference

There are many wonderful people and organizations that impact the 35th Assembly District. From time to time, we will profile them in the feature “Making a Difference”.

OXNARD – Two Ventura County teens have been recognized for their work organizing other youth and inspiring adults to fight a multi-billion dollar Australian company that was proposing a massive degasification terminal off the Ventura County coast.

Erica Fernandez and Shannon McComb are brilliant examples of youth activism in our community. Both rose to the occasion during the 4 year battle against BHP Billiton, impressing their peers, community members and high ranking statewide elected officials.

Erica Fernandez is a recent graduate of Hueneme High School and will attend Stanford University in the fall majoring in environmental science. She was instrumental in educating the community of the harmful impacts of this project in Spanish and in English. Last year, she received the prestigious Brower Youth Environmental Award for her leadership to protect the environment and her community. The Brower Award is named after David Brower, an environmentalist and founder of the Sierra Club.



Erica Fernandez, Carmen Ramirez and Susan Jordan

Continued on page 4, see “Making a Difference”

Continued from page 3, "Making a Difference"

Shannon McComb was 8 years old when she learned of the pollution the terminal would produce. She made hundreds of calls and organized rallies in opposition. She was recently recognized by Lt. Governor Garamendi at an Oxnard luncheon where she received the Earth Alert Equinox award for environmental activism and the Environmental Hero award for 2007 from the Los Padres chapter of the Sierra Club.

We are lucky to have these wonderful teens in our community.

Shannon McComb, Lt. Gov. Garamendi and Susan Jordan



Nava Joins Local Environmental Organization to Honor Lt. Gov. Garamendi, Jack and Kim Johnson and Sarah and Anna Schwab

SANTA BARBARA - At its 15th annual benefit auction and Environmental Hero Awards this month, Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center (EDC) honored Lt. Governor John Garamendi, singer-songwriter Jack Johnson and his wife, Kim and sisters Sarah and Anna Schwab. Honorees received recognition from EDC, Nava and other elected officials.

"I am proud to honor these environmental heroes on behalf of the California State Assembly," said Nava. "Their commitment to sustainability and creative problem solving to protect our Earth is something that deserves our respect and thanks."

The Environmental Hero Award was given to Lt. Gov. Garamendi for his leadership on the State Lands Commission in opposing a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the coast of Oxnard, and for being outspoken on issues of climate change and renewable energy. EDC and Susan Jordan, Executive Director of the California Coastal Protection Network, played a vital role in defeating the LNG terminal.

Jack and Kim Johnson were commended for their creation of The Kokua Hawai'i Foundation whose mission is to provide students with exciting and interactive encounters that will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of their environment so that they will be lifelong stewards of the earth. Johnson has also been in the forefront of promoting eco-friendly options for touring productions and venues, compiling these in an "EnviroRider" handbook for concert tours.

Sisters Sarah and Anna Schwab of Orcutt were honored with the Environmental Youth Hero Award for their work in starting Tree Amigos, a local tree planting youth organization that has been vocal in its opposition to a development project in their hometown.

*Jack and
Kim
Johnson*



*Lt. Gov.
Garamendi*



Staff Profile: Assembly Banking and Finance Committee

From Left to Right: Tiffany Morrison, Katey O'Malley, Banking and Finance Chairman Nava, and Mark Farouk.



SACRAMENTO- The Assembly Banking and Finance Committee has jurisdiction over financial institutions, real property finance, and corporate securities law in California.

A committed team with unique experience guides banking and finance policy:

Tiffany Morrison, a Sacramento native has been with the Legislature providing legislative support services for 5 years and with the Banking & Finance committee for 4. With the Banking committee, she is responsible for committee administration, facilitating staff and stakeholder negotiations, document quality control and meeting preparation and coordination.

Katey O'Malley is a seven year veteran of the state Capitol. She previously worked for Assemblyman Jerome Horton, the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee, and lobbied for a year before returning to the Capitol as a banking and finance consultant. She works on all banking and finance issues ranging from escrow law to student loans. Ms. O'Malley is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a B.A. degree in history and she earned her Juris Doctorate in 2007.

Mark Farouk is the Chief Consultant of the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee. He is a graduate of California State University Sacramento. He has served as policy staff in the legislature for over seven years, and has been with the Banking committee for the last four years. He began his career in the legislature as an intern and rose to become Chief Consultant.

District Offices:

- 101 W. Anapamu, Ste A, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Phone: (805) 564-1649 • Fax: (805) 564-1651
- 201 E. Fourth Street, Ste 209-A, Oxnard, CA 93030 Phone: (805) 483-9808 • Fax (805) 483-8182

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0035 Phone: (916) 319-2035 • Fax: (916) 319-2135